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New striptease laws get hot and cold reception

Full-frontal nudity still prohibited. Legislation permitting striptease, wet-clothing contests in places that serve alcohol now in effect

Legislation that allows striptease performances and wet-clothing contests in adult-only, licensed premises is getting mixed reviews from Saskatchewan residents.

Part of 77 changes to Saskatchewan liquor regulations announced in November of 2012, the final change, which permits the striptease performances and wet-clothing contests, came into effect on New Year's Day.

Regina resident Chad Dwyer said while he's not "too familiar" with current legislation, he feels a strip club's ability to serve alcohol is important to business.

"It is a necessary change in order to have a successful strip club operation," Dwyer said on Wednesday. "If you look at major city centres that have them such as Las Vegas or Montreal and Ottawa, they all serve alcohol. Alcohol seems to be a key factor in garnering clientele."

Bert Horvath, in Saskatoon, disagreed, saying he feels there's no place for strip clubs in Saskatchewan.

"It's something we don't need in the province," he said. "I think that's something that should be done privately in the bedroom, not publicly in a building."

Others, like Kadie Hozempa in Regina, said they feel the change is OK as long as the establishments are secure for their employees.

"I think it's a fine change as long as there are enough bouncers and safety precautions for the women," Hozempa said.

Bev Carter, of Moose Jaw, said she feels the legislation is a step in the wrong direction.

"I feel it's totally wrong," she said. "I think men have too much problems with pornography to start with. I feel it interferes with marriage, relationship(s) and gives a wrong view of what a sex life should be. It just feeds into the wrong thing and I think men — and women, because there are a lot of women with the same problem — should concentrate on their relationship and building that."

While legislation regarding strip clubs came into effect on Wednesday, other regulatory changes, including the introduction of a bring-your-own-wine service and longer hours for permit holders on Sundays and holidays, have been in effect since August. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO, WITH FILES FROM MARCO VIGLIOTTI IN REGINA

SPECIAL DELIVERY

The parents of Saskatoon's first baby of 2014, father Yasir Mirza and mother Attka Mirza, pose for a photo with baby Sufyaan on New Year's Day. Weighing in at seven pounds, two ounces, the baby was born at 1:13 a.m. at Royal University Hospital. Story, page 2. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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NEWS 1

City joins in celebrating its first baby of 2014

'Great gift.' Sufyaan Mirza will be the first of his family to possess Canadian citizenship

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

A local couple said they're thrilled to be celebrating the birth of their baby boy with the entire city, as their child, Sufyaan Mirza, was Saskatoon's first of 2014.

Born to mother Attka and father Yasir, little Sufyaan was born roughly an hour into the New Year at Royal University Hospital, weighing seven pounds two ounces.

The couple, who moved to Saskatoon from Pakistan in 2012, said they're ecstatic they got to share such an important part of their life with so many people.

"I'm feeling really great after hearing that this baby has come into this world in 2014, and the first baby of the New Year is a great gift," said an excited Yasir on Wednesday afternoon.

Sufyaan will be the couple's third child but the first of the family to have Canadian citizenship.

"We're really happy to have him over here," he said.

Yasir took time to thank Saskatoon residents for being so welcoming and accepting, noting that they hope their son will grow up to be a contributing Canadian citizen.

The couple said Sufyaan is the last child they plan to have.

Miracle of life

"I'm really rejuvenated and happy for this small baby to come into this world."
Father Yasir Mirza

Sufyaan Mirza is Saskatoon's first baby of 2014, seen here at Royal University Hospital on Jan. 1. MORGANMODJESKI/METRO

Crunch time

RCMP inundated on New Year's Eve

Saskatchewan RCMP were busy on New Year's Eve, responding to 181 calls in four hours.

From 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., officers dealt primarily with alcohol-related incidents and crime. Reports flooded in of assaults, unwanted visitors, mischief, theft, firework complaints and drunk drivers. METRO

One-way trip

Sask. man makes short list for Mars colonization

A Saskatoon man is now one step closer to making his dream of space travel a reality.

Justin Semenoff applied to go on a 2023 space mission with the Dutch-led Mars One project. If all goes well, Semenoff would spend the rest of his life with 24 other astronauts settling a colony on the red planet.

Over 200,000 people applied for the privately funded project, and the list is now down to 1,058.

The mission clearly states that those sent to Mars will never be able to return to Earth.

Semenoff is an army combat engineer with the Canadian Armed Forces.

He says making it to the short list is a huge honour.

GLOBAL SASKATOON/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

No charges

Police say ice a factor in vehicle falling from bridge

Saskatoon police have concluded their investigation after a vehicle plummeted into the South Saskatchewan River off the Circle Drive North Bridge on Dec. 30.

Police determined that "icy road conditions were a contributing factor in the driver's loss of control and collision with the centre barrier on the bridge. The vehicle ... then travelled across the eastbound lanes of the bridge and ended up on top of the guardrail before leaving the bridge."

Buildup of ice and snow along the guardrail, police say, contributed to the car leaving the roadway. Speed was not cited as a factor, and no charges will be laid against the 23-year-old female driver, who suffered only minor injuries. METRO

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Under the provisions of *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulations Act, 1997*

Notice is hereby given that Paramount Day Spa & Salon Inc.
(Name of applicant: individual/corporation, etc)

has applied to the Liquor and Gaming Authority for a Special Use Permit
(Tavern/Restaurant/Special Use/ Manufacturer)

Permit to sell alcohol in premises known as Paramount Day Spa Salon & Boutique
(Name of establishment)

at 702 2nd Ave. N. Saskatoon SK of which the following is a correct legal description:
(Describe accurately the location of the premises including lot, block and plan number and civic/street address)

Lot A Blk 6 Plan No. 66 S 25980
702 2nd Ave. N, Saskatoon SK

Written objections to the granting of the permit may be filed with SLGA not more than two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

Every person filing a written objection with SLGA shall state their name, address and telephone number in printed form, as well as the grounds for the objection(s). Petitions must name a contact person, state grounds and be legible. Each signatory to the petition and the contact person must provide an address and telephone number. Frivolous, vexatious or competition-based objections within the beverage alcohol industry may not be considered, and may be rejected by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Licensing Commission, who may refuse to hold a hearing.

Write to:
Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority
Box 5054
Regina Sk S4P 3M3

Palestinian ambassador to Czech Republic killed by exploding safe

Booby-trapped?
Foreign minister says no foul play suspected in apartment blast

The Palestinian ambassador to the Czech Republic died Wednesday in an explosion that occurred when he opened an old safe that had been left untouched for more than 20 years, officials said.

Ambassador Jamal al-Jamal, 56, was at home with his family at the time of the explosion, according to Palestinian Embassy spokesman Nabil El-Fahel. Al-Jamal was seriously injured and rushed to a hospital where he died, according to police spokeswoman Andrea Zoulova.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki said no foul play was suspected, noting that the safe had been left untouched for more than 20 years.

It also appeared that the door of the safe had been booby-trapped, according to Zoulova. It was unclear how al-Jamal tried to open it or what type of safe it was.

The safe was recently moved from the old embassy building, but it had come from a building that used to house the Palestinian Liberation Organization's offices in the 1980s, Malki said.

"The ambassador decided to open it. After he opened it, apparently something happened inside (the safe) and went off," Malki told The Associated Press.

It was not immediately clear how Malki knew the safe had been untouched for more than 20 years or why and when the safe would have been booby-trapped.

During the 1980s — before the fall of the Soviet Union — the PLO had close ties with the Eastern bloc countries. In recent years, relations have been tense and the Czech government was seen as taking Israel's side in the Mideast conflict, said Nabil Shaath, a foreign affairs veteran and official in Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement.

"The safe was sitting ... in ... the old embassy.... No one had touched it for 20 to 25 years," Malki said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firemen lay on the ground near the residence of Jamal al-Jamal, Palestinian ambassador to the Czech Republic, in Prague on Wednesday. The ambassador died in an explosion that occurred when he opened an office safe that officials say had been left untouched for more than 20 years. A Palestinian official says foul play is not suspected. Inset: A recent photo of Jamal al-Jamal. KATERINA SULOVA/CTK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; INSET: KRUMPHANZL MICHAL/CTK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Tamil MP says Sri Lanka officials threatened to arrest, deport her

NDP MP Rathika Sitsabaiesan rises during Question Period in the House of Commons in October 2012. Sitsabaiesan claims she faced "political intimidation" during a visit to her native Sri Lanka. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

A New Democrat MP of Tamil heritage says she experienced "political intimidation" during a private visit to her native Sri Lanka, but that authorities stopped short of trying to kick her out of the country.

In a statement issued Wednesday, Rathika Sitsabaiesan said she was warned by Sri Lankan officials that she could be arrested and deported.

Canadian officials were scrambling on New Year's Eve to determine the veracity of reports that Sitsabaiesan, a Toronto-area MP, had been placed under house arrest.

Sitsabaiesan said in the statement that she had received word from the Canadian High Commission in Colombo that there was in fact no Sri Lankan arrest warrant in her name.

"My experiences since arriving in Sri Lanka are a reminder that defending principles of human rights is not easy," Sitsabaiesan said in the statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fighting for human rights

Sitsabaiesan, 32, came to Canada with her family at age five and was elected to the House of Commons in 2011 in the Toronto-area riding of Scarborough-Rouge River.

- She took on a prominent role in New Democrat efforts to urge Stephen Harper to boycott a meeting of Commonwealth leaders that was held in Sri Lanka in November.
- Harper had indicated he was giving the meeting a pass in protest of the Sri Lankan government's human-rights record.
- The NDP and others have called for the government to submit to an investigation into alleged war crimes during the country's lengthy civil war.

Coded message? Vodafone Egypt ad rouses suspicion

Prosecutors have questioned officials in one of Egypt's largest telecommunications companies over an online advertisement, which a controversial blogger has accused of delivering a coded message linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, the company said Wednesday.

The accusations made against Vodafone Egypt's ad, starring well-known puppet Abla Fahita, come shortly after the government designated the Brotherhood a terrorist organization.

Ahmed "Spider," a self-styled youth activist, says code about an upcoming attack is included in the details of the puppet ad.

In it, Fahita and her daughter search for her deceased husband's sim card, while talking about another character, "Mama Touta."

Spider said a mall and dog mentioned refer to the planned site of the attack, and "Mama Touta" is the Brotherhood's secret name. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cayman Islands cruise

Canadian may have fallen off ship

Police in the Cayman Islands said Wednesday that they suspect a Canadian cruise ship passenger may have fallen off the boat as search crews scoured waters around the British Caribbean territory. Police said they believe the unidentified 65-year-old man may have fallen on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Israeli PM

Sharon's health takes a bad turn

The medical condition of the comatose former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon sharply deteriorated Wednesday, the hospital treating him said. Sharon, 85, has been in a coma since 2006, when a devastating stroke incapacitated him at the height of his political power.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin visits bomb-rocked city, says 'no justification' for attack

Fears ahead of Sochi. Russian president talks security with officials as Volgograd survivor tells him city's spirit 'can't be broken'

Russian President Vladimir Putin made a pre-dawn visit Wednesday to the city reeling from two suicide bombings this week, bringing gestures of sympathy for the victims and questions for the officials he has ordered to beef up security.

The bombings at the main railway station of Volgograd and on a city trolleybus killed 34 people and wounded scores, 65 of whom are hospitalized.

No claim of responsibility has been made for the attacks, but they come a few months after the leader of an Islamic insurgency in Russia's south called for attacks in the run-up to February's Winter Olympics in Sochi.

"Whatever motivated the criminals' actions, there's no justification for committing crimes against civilians, especially against women and children," Putin said, opening a meeting in Volgograd with the heads of the Federal Security Service and Interior Ministry.

He said he would ask the two officials in the closed-door session for details on what measures their agencies are taking to raise security in the country.

Afterward, Putin placed a bouquet on the pile of flowers, balloons and other items that has risen at the site of the bombing, and then visited a hospital where some of the wounded are being treated.

Television footage showed Putin meeting with an unidentified female victim who told him from her bed that "Volgograd people have a strong spirit and just can't be broken."

Volgograd, a city of about one million, has been under heavy security since the Sunday and Monday attacks. Police reinforcements and paramilitary troops were sent into the city.

As part of the tightened security, police and sniffer dogs have checked some 2,700 residential buildings, along with bus stations, parking lots and other structures, the city's police department said, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

City authorities cancelled public New Year's Eve gatherings and have closed movie theatres until Thursday.

Suicide bombings have rocked Russia for years, but the insurgents seeking to create an Islamic state have largely confined their attacks to the North Caucasus region in recent years. The blasts in Volgograd signalled that militants want to show their reach outside their native region. Volgograd is about 300 kilometres north of the Caucasus and about 690 kilometres northeast of Sochi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vulnerabilities exposed?

Organizers have introduced some of the most extensive identity checks and security measures ever seen at an international sporting event.

- But the bombings show how public transit in Sochi and sites away from the venues are vulnerable.

Russian President Vladimir Putin greets a victim of recent terrorist attacks as he visits a hospital in Volgograd, Russia, on Wednesday. ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/RIA-NOVOSTI/PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Experts warn of image theft via 'data scraping'

The lack of online privacy was highlighted last year when a photo of Rehtaeh Parsons was used in a dating website's Facebook ad.
FACEBOOK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

When a photo of the late Rehtaeh Parsons was used for a dating website's Facebook ad last year, the misappropriation of her image shocked those who saw it, but it should have also been seen as a warning, say privacy experts.

Having a photo stolen and re-posted elsewhere online could just as easily happen to any of the millions of Canadians who regularly post images to the web without a second thought.

"Many of us are sharing images without considering how others may use them or how we may lose control," says Marian Merritt, the Internet safety advocate for security software maker Norton.

Last September, ads for the now defunct ionechat.com featured photos of Parsons with the text, "Find Love in Canada!" The online backlash prompted the company and Facebook to apologize and pull the ads.

It's possible the images of many other Canadians were swept up in 2012 as part of a digital art project hosted at Lovely-Faces.com.

The website was designed to look like an online dating service and included fake profiles based on images and data taken from one million Facebook users who had their privacy preferences set to public.

The partners behind the project, Paolo Cirio and Alessandro Ludovico, say it was easily put together because of a process called data scraping.

"Facebook tries to expose as much as it can. They want search engines indexing that personal information," says Cirio. "And because of that it was pretty easy to harvest that data."

The website has since been taken down, and Cirio says the project wasn't meant to be nefarious and was designed as a social commentary on the dangers of posting private information online.

Merritt says even experts find themselves making mistakes online. "You've heard the stories where kids have an unfortunate or embarrassing image, and adults too, and it becomes an Internet meme where people make changes to it (and make fun of it)," Merritt says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Surrey, B.C.

Police investigate 'suspicious' death of woman who fell from highrise

Police are investigating what is being termed a "suspicious death" in Surrey, B.C. Media reports say a woman fell from a highrise in the city's north end Wednesday and that one person is in custody.

But police have yet to comment on the incident other than to say they are investigating.

The city recorded two dozen homicides in 2013, breaking a record and forcing the mayor to launch a task force to solve the problem.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rewind

Sask. pair have a blockbuster idea: Rent out VHS films

A couple of Saskatoon movie buffs are reaching into their personal collections in hopes of reviving a staple of the last century — the VHS movie rental.

Jon Vaughn and Tyler Baptist estimate they have a collection of about 2,000 VHS tapes, and say they've been lending out their movies to friends for years and thought they should just start renting them.

The pair, whose store is called Videonomicon, say they'd hate to see their favourites lost forever.

The store will also rent VCRs to play the tapes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

What happens in Vegas

Sweet retirement o' mine: Cop quits after rocker's stunt

A Las Vegas police captain who helped a rock star pull off an elaborate wedding proposal by arranging a flight on a department helicopter has retired rather than face demotion.

The agency confirms Capt. David O'Leary faced demotion for helping arrange the Aug. 7 flight for Guns N' Roses guitarist Daren Jay Ashba and actress Nathalia Henao. O'Leary instead retired on Dec. 20.

Police officials say officer Ray Horsley, who piloted the helicopter, will no longer be allowed to fly for the department.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manitoba Hydro workers return to Winnipeg after giving up their Christmas time with their families to help restore power in Ontario. SHANE GIBSON/METRO IN WINNIPEG

Giving up their Christmas so others might have one

Helping hands. When Ontario was hit with a freak ice storm, Manitobans were ready to lend a hand to restore power

Several dozen workers returned home to Manitoba on Tuesday after spending a week helping restore power in southern Ontario.

About 45 Manitoba Hydro employees gathered in the Perimeter Aviation hangar Tuesday evening to greet family and wish them a Merry Christmas — a few days late.

"It was tough, but we knew we were going there for a good cause, to help other people who weren't having a good Christmas," said Rowan Andrelunas, a lineman with Manitoba Hydro who told Metro he had a rushed present-opening with his wife and three kids before answering the call to help. "Maybe we'll have another little Christmas now that I'm back and celebrate it again."

Andrelunas said he and the other Manitoba Hydro employees worked 14-hour days while they were away.

"It's nice to be back home," he said just minutes after touching down in Winnipeg.

Southern Ontario experienced a freak ice storm just before Christmas, leaving more than 300,000 without power. People were literally skating in the streets in cities like Kingston.

It took more than a week to fully restore everyone due to the slippery conditions, countless downed trees and cold weather.

Toronto Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly said the final bill for restoring power to its citizens will likely reach $10 million, and cleanup will take two months.

SHANE GIBSON AND ELISHA DACEY/METRO IN WINNIPEG, WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Good support at home'

"It was a tough decision, but I had good support at home and my wife knew what they were going through (in Ontario)."

Trevor Froese, a Manitoba Hydro worker from Steinbach, Man., who spent Christmas away from his wife and two-year-old daughter.

'They have kids, too'

"Those people needed help. You could see the devastation they had — you know, they have kids too, and they need heat in their houses."

Jared Anderson, operator with Manitoba Hydro, who left his wife and three children to help after the ice storm.

'You do what you can'

"There's people without power and we're going there to help. You do what you can."

Gord Funk, Manitoba Hydro worker, who left his wife at Christmas to help restore power in Ontario.

Residents 'very happy that we came'

"The residents in Toronto were really glad to see us ... everyone was very happy that we came and gave up our Christmas to help them out."

Rowan Andrelunas, a lineman with Manitoba Hydro, and father of three from Winnipeg.

Joe CEO making 171 times more than Joe Schmo

Life found in 'economic stratosphere.' Report out on Canada's top 100

Five years after the Great Recession wiped out thousands of jobs, Canada's top 100 CEOs continue to live in the "economic stratosphere," a study says.

They earned an average of $7.9 million in 2012, a report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives found. In comparison, the average Canadian earned $46,634, the study noted. That means Canada's top CEOs earned 171 times the average industrial wage.

Despite growing outcry over the widening income gap and soaring executive pay, very little has changed since 2008, when rules on how stock options should be valued were changed, the report says.

"For me, the remarkable thing about the last two or three years is what's not happening: … any moderation despite the focus on the one per cent, despite the constant stories about excessive executive compensation.... Despite all of that pressure, these salaries have been remarkably resilient," says Hugh Mackenzie, an economist with CCPA.

Put another way: By 1:11 p.m. today, the top 100 CEOs will have earned as much as the average Canadian earns all year, according to the report, called All in a Day's Work? CEO Pay in Canada. The main driver of soaring pay is grants of shares and stock options.

There's still no clear relationship between CEO compensation and corporate performance, the report concludes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Top 5 CEO earners (2012)

- **$49M.** E. Hunter Harrison, Canadian Pacific Railways Ltd.
- **$18.8M.** James C. Smith, Thomson Reuters Corp.
- **$18.67M.** John A. Manzoni, Talisman Energy Inc.
- **$18.66M.** Paul N. Wright, Eldorado Gold Corp.
- **$16.85M.** Donald J. Walker, Magna International Inc.

Green stands for cash, envy and pot

Tyler Williams of Blanchester, Ohio, selects marijuana strains to purchase at the 3-D Denver Discrete Dispensary on Wednesday in Denver, Colo. Legalization of recreational marijuana sales in the state went into effect at 8 a.m. on what some have referred to as Green Wednesday. THEO STROOMER/GETTY IMAGES

Book bling for Buddy and an updo for Odie

Sugarplum went into the salon as a reddish-blond dachshund mix and came out with pink and green ears, a rainbow tail and a bow in her fur.

"It's like having a little unicorn creature," said Sasha Sinnott, an attorney from Pasadena who was nearly giddy about her dog's makeover.

For some dog owners, simple bathing and combing is not enough. So they pay groomers to turn fur into an artist's canvas, where vibrant sweeps of chalk and paint transform pooches into fantasy furballs that draw both compliments and strange looks. For an extra 10 or 15 minutes at the groomer, the everyday dog can get an outlandish redesign with a temporary paint tattoo, mohawk, feather extension or glued-on jewels.

Then there are the "extreme groomers," who turn their own pets into elaborate creations like zombies, flowers or even whole jungle scenes, transformations that can take months as hair grows, paint is applied, fur is braided or extended and shapes are sculpted.

Groomer Michelle Boch gives Molly, a 15-year-old Bichon Frise, a chalking treatment at PetSmart in Culver City, Calif. RICHARD VOGEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

But there are limits to the makeover mania, which is blossoming in an unregulated industry that can leave pets open to risks. Experts say products should be non-toxic and there should be no pain involved — absolutely no piercings or real tattoos. If dogs enjoy being groomed, they shouldn't mind the extra primping, experts added.

But many pet owners and industry professionals say it's a fun activity that helps person and pooch bond.

"For me, it is about a closer connection with my pets. People are now showering their pets with the amenities and affections that they would like themselves," said Lauren L. Darr, founder of the International Association of Pet Fashion Professionals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2014: THIS TIME FOR SURE

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

The word 'resolution' is from the Greek meaning, "something you tell people you're going to do that makes them say, 'good for you!' and then you feel good but you don't actually do the thing you said because the pat on the back from the people you told was more than enough satisfaction."

This is why resolutions are all Greek to me. (Ha!)

I've made bachelorhood-related resolutions many times since I started writing a weekly column in 1957, so I'll be taking the idea one step farther in 2014 by following through on a few of them. It's worth a shot.

It's necessary because even I've got to admit my bachelorhood lifestyle is getting out of hand. If I died today my obituary is pretty much guaranteed to include the word 'squalid.'

It has to change, which is why I present:

John's Bachelorhood Resolutions 2014: This time for sure

— I resolve to stop passing off the coloured mould in the bathroom as "accents."
— I resolve to throw out my spoiled milk instead of just sliding in new cartons next to the old ones until my fridge door looks like The Two Per Cent Milk Carton Museum and Cafe. Alternatively, I vow to claim that the 2 per cent fridge wall is a Damien Hirst installation entitled The Twelve Sacraments and cash in.
— I will note the irony of only cleaning up when I expect the arrival of the cleaning lady.
— I resolve to make my spice rack more relevant than the Spice Girls.
— I will learn that girlish screams are not enough to lift tough stains, that changing my angle slightly in the mirror is not the same as weight loss, and that mixing two different flavours of Campbell's Soup is not a "recipe."
— I vow to use my vacuum cleaner at least as often as I open my Drawer o' Random Cords. (I do that often, though I'm never sure why.)
— I will use only toilet paper as toilet paper. I don't get to hum the MacGyver theme because I found an alternative use for the coffee filters.
— I resolve to value my sunroom as a cherished part of my apartment instead of the place I throw recycling, DVDs without cases, books without shelf space, garbage bags containing things I'm not certain I remember, and deceased organisms.
— If I choose to procrastinate on all of these resolutions, I need a better excuse than, "My favourite Internet is on."

And those are my resolutions.

In 2014, won't you drop by my apartment to see how well I'm doing?

Please note that the Public Health Agency recommends a tetanus booster for anyone visiting my apartment and requires proof of immunization against Japanese encephalitis for some reason. See you soon!

ZOOM

Probably more fun than whatever you did:

Snapshots of New Year's celebrations around the world:

Indonesia

Girls in traditional costumes gather during a parade for the last sundown of the year on Bali island. FIRDIA LISNAWATI/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

O Gunners of the historical Grenadier Corps 1810 greet the new year with 12 cannon salutes in Villingen-Schwenningen, southwestern Germany. This New Year's tradition dates back to 1633 remembering an overcome siege during the Thirty Year's War. PATRICK SEEGER/DPA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

USA

Dick the Dog is pushed in a carriage during the Key West Dachshund Walk. About 200 canines participated in the annual procession. ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ecuador

A mask in the likeness of President Rafael Correa hangs with other masks in Quito, Ecuador. The masks are created to place on effigies that are burned at midnight. ANA MARIA BUITON/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

Although the video game market is still dominated by major studios, smaller, independent developers are finding new ways to reach consumers. Increasingly, this means packaging their games together in a pay-what-you-can bundle. Here are a few sites that will help you get your hands on some new games for cheap, and maybe even help out a charity or two along the way.

humblebundle.com:
The king of the bundle scene, Humble Bundle has been going strong for over three years. They typically bring in over $1 million in sales for their packages, with the money being split between the organization, the game developers and charities like the Red Cross and the Electronic Frontier Foundation. Their games are cross-platform, and they've recently branched out to include mobile titles and even ebooks and music.

bundlestars.com:
Based in the United Kingdom, this site offers bundles catering to different video game genres, from sports to role-playing games.

indieroyale.com:
With a true focus on independent games, these bundles are guaranteed to include at least a few titles you've never heard of.

Twitter

A woman finds what she describes as a "very lethargic" snake in a curbside couch months after she initially picked it up. What's the weirdest thing you ever picked up with a roadside freebie?

@thewrongshoes: a rat had babies inside a sofabed we never opened. sat on them & squished.them. found out when they started to rot

@SUNAllisonSalz: Saw a computer. Took it home. Realized why it was free. Put it back.

@EminaKosjenka Friends got couch that kept hemorrhaging money on the way home! They plan on loading it w/change when theyr done w/ it.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll. Best answers published right here.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

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SCENE 2

A story of star-crossed steppers

Romeo and Juliet. The Winnipeg Ballet brings Shakespeare's classic love tale to Saskatchewan

BACKSTAGE PASS
Simon Hiatt
saskatoon@metronews.ca

The story is set in fair Verona and is being staged by a company from Manitoba. But when the world-famous Royal Winnipeg Ballet brings Romeo and Juliet to Saskatchewan this month, it will in some ways be coming home.

"It's a production we've had since the early '80s that Arnold Spohr, a (Rhein) Saskatchewan native, brought to the company when he was director. It's been a great success," current artistic director Andre Lewis said in a telephone interview with Metro. "There's beautiful dancing, beautiful production values, it's a big show."

Lewis says the size and scope of the show is one of the reasons the company doesn't often take it on tour, which makes its upcoming appearances in the province a special treat.

"It certainly is a challenge; obviously we have a touring history and have the know-how, but still there's 40-odd people onstage and to carry those people, plus the crew and administration, is a major challenge."

And while logistics may limit the number of visits the dancing Capulets and Montagues make outside of Winnipeg, when they do hit the road the show has proven tremendously popular.

"It is such a well known story and people relate to it, it's still relevant today. With the hatred between families and the tension, but it's also such a beautifully woven love story within those warring families that people still connect to it."

Lewis says the popularity of the production is somewhat ironic, as the play was once considered "undanceable." Adapted by Sergei Prokofiev in 1935, he believes the source material not only lends itself well to ballet, it is also the perfect production for people who are less familiar with the art form.

"For first-time goers it's the perfect vehicle to come into the world of ballet and explore it and find out if they feel comfortable with it. It's a well-known story and it's an art form that's very classically driven in this case so there's nothing to fear in seeing it."

The show will be performed in Regina on Jan. 13 and in Saskatoon on Jan. 14 and 15 and will tour Western Canada before heading home for a series of dates in Winnipeg in February.

"Ballet still has a place in our society, it's a beautiful art form that has the power to move people and that's especially true with an emotional story like Romeo and Juliet," Lewis said.

Adaptation

The adaptation of Romeo and Juliet is one of Prokofiev's most famous works, but his original vision for the ending of the story was much different from William Shakespeare's. The Russian composer actually gave the star-crossed lovers a happy ending, but was forced to change it to a more faithful version by Joseph Stalin.

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet's presentation of Romeo and Juliet will be staged at TCU Place Jan. 14 and 15.
CONTRIBUTED

Top six celebrity splits of 2013

It was a messy year in the world of celebrity love lives. Both longtime couples and quick-moving flames found themselves burning out. Some parted ways on good terms (at least in the media), others left a wake of gossip and resentment in their paths, and a few even found their way back to each other.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus

Miranda Kerr and Orlando Bloom

Harry Styles and Taylor Swift

Kris Jenner and Bruce Jenner

Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones

Katy Perry and John Mayer

Goodbye Uncle Phil

Fresh Prince actor James Avery dies at 65

James Avery, the bulky character actor who laid down the law as the Honorable Philip Banks in The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, has died.

Avery's publicist, Cynthia Snyder, told The Associated Press that Avery died Tuesday. She did not immediately know the cause of death or where he died. Avery played Will Smith's uncle on the popular TV series. His movie credits included Fletch, 8 Million Ways to Die and The Prince of Egypt. METRO

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Audio sampled on Beyoncé single stirring up controversy

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Beyoncé's new single, XO, features audio from the day of the 1986 Challenger disaster. At the beginning of the song, NASA spokesman Steve Nesbitt can be heard saying, "Flight controllers here looking very carefully at the situation. Obviously a major malfunction."

It's an excerpt from a statement he made to reporters as debris from the Challenger rained from the sky. The Challenger exploded on Jan. 28, 1986, and killed all seven astronauts onboard.

"We were disappointed to learn that an audio clip from the day we lost our heroic Challenger crew was used in the song XO," June Scobee Rodgers, widow of Shuttle Commander Dick Scobee, told ABC News. "The moment included in this song is an emotionally difficult one for the Challenger families, colleagues and friends."

Beyoncé stopped short of offering an apology, but she did issue a statement explaining the rationale behind the sample. "My heart goes out to the families of those lost in the Challenger disaster. The song XO was recorded with the sincerest intention to help heal those who have lost loved ones and to remind us that unexpected things happen, so love and appreciate every minute that you have with those who mean the most to you. The songwriters included the audio in tribute to the unselfish work of the Challenger crew with hope that they will never be forgotten."

Distribution Assistant (part time)

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- Presentable, confident and articulate
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metro

A brighter 2014 in store for shoppers

Colour me good. Bold graphics, pale pastels set to add pop to your closet in 2014

Whether you're seeking to make a minor ripple or sizable splash in your wardrobe in 2014, prognosticators are hoping to help make the new year a stylish one with predictions of noteworthy new looks in fashion. Lisa Tant, vice-president, fashion editor at Holt Renfrew, shars her views on notable trends and suggestions on how to incorporate the changes within your apparel and accessories.

Pale hues and bold blooms

When it comes to injecting a little extra colour into the wardrobe, Tant suggested opting for a softer touch in the form of a pretty pastel.

"We saw pale pink, pale blue, mint green," she said. "It sounds kind of girly and you might think that sounds too sweetie pie for a lot of women. But it's being cut in really simple shapes like a pale blue trench coat or a pale pink motorcycle jacket, a mint green pencil skirt. It's really kind of cool colours and classic pieces."

For those keen to crank the colour or longing for a bolder statement in the form of pattern, blooms are back in a big way. Tant pointed to emergence of large, bright, bold florals and tropical patterns for the coming year.

Feeling fringe

Expect to see a little something extra in the form of embellishments on apparel and accessories for the new year. The fringe is flowing and in abundance as a stylish addition to many key pieces. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hydrating hair oils for winter

Don't underestimate the powers of frigid temperatures, biting winds and central heating to damage your hair

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

So many of us assume that the only time our locks deserve a little TLC — a smother of coconut oil, a drop of shea butter — is once they've been frazzled by the burning sun and dipped in sea salt. Once summer is over, you switch to richer conditioner, slip on a beanie and voilà. But that won't be enough.

Frigid temperatures outdoors, central heating indoors and biting winds can do just as much damage to your hair as 12-day beach vacay. To help, we've rounded up oils formulated with the most nourishing ingredients including avocado, olive or argan to oil, to keep your hair hydrated over winter — despite the blasting heat of the hairdryer.

Moroccanoil

Treatment Light
$50

Kiehl's

Olive and avocado leave-in cream
$30

Sisley

Extract for Hair and Scalp
$139

L'Oreal

Professional Mythic Oil
$23

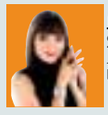
Ojon

Rare Blend Oil Moisture Therapy
$49

Wella

SP Luxe Oil
$33

Twitter



JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Happy day: Perfect way to say goodbye to 2013+hello to 2014!!! X-country skiing at the farm with my family. #bliss

Me in my farmhouse kitchen with my #OrderofCanada pin! Sweetest accessory ever...

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Skye

Age: 25

Occupation: Fashion stylist

What she's wearing
Zara coat and scarf, Rebecca Minkoff bag, 3.1 Phillip Lim boots.

Her inspiration
"London street style, i-D magazine, '90s minimalism, Hanne Gaby Odiele: off duty."

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

Sparking new life into a cold fireplace

DIY. Tricks for making a hearth more welcoming range from adding pillar candles to installing a new mantle or insert

If your festive stockings are looking out of place hanging from a dated and unused fireplace, it's time to give that old hearth a facelift. Adding some simple and affordable design elements will restore the fireplace as an inviting destination to read a book or gather with friends and family.

To bring an old-fashioned design into the 21st century, consider a more in-depth overhaul that will be both stylish and energy efficient.

Bring the outdoors in

Even if a wood fire isn't in the near future, logs for decoration can give an empty fireplace some life. Try experimenting with different stacking patterns and types of wood, like birch. White birch bark provides a nice contrast to many dark brick fireplaces and can make them look more welcoming and less like a black hole in the wall.

Shine a light with candles

For a more elegant look, replace logs with candles and go for a layered appearance using a mixture of pillar candle sizes. White or cream candles will work with almost any fireplace but get creative by adding some colour to complement the room's decor. To help fill out larger spaces, try adding an elegant cast iron candle holder.

Modernize with a new mantle

Installing a modern and stylish mantle is an easy refresh project. They can either be bought separately or as part of a larger fireplace kit for a more complete makeover. The kits come in different sizes so make sure to take measurements before visiting a store. There are legal requirements about how close materials can be installed from the fireplace opening so do some research before beginning to ensure you're not creating a fire hazard.

Fire up a fireplace insert

While the initial costs of installing a fireplace insert are high, it's a practical and energy efficient solution everyone should consider. Installed into an existing fireplace, inserts not only transfer more heat into the home than a traditional fireplace, but don't let the fire's energy escape through the chimney. Wood-burning inserts are available for the traditionalist, but electric or gas options are far more efficient.

House Crashers

- For more home improvement ideas tune in to House Crashers, Wednesdays at 9 p.m. ET/PT on DIY Network Canada.

Make your fireside inviting again by using the tricks and tips listed. ISTOCK

Kick off your New Year healthy eating resolutions with salmon

For a healthy start to 2014, try this baked salmon.

1. Mix all marinade ingredients and marinate salmon 1 hour.

2. Preheat oven to 425 F (220 C).

3. Remove salmon from marinade and pour into a small saucepan. Place salmon on a parchment-lined baking sheet and cook in the oven for 12–15 minutes or until desired doneness.

4. Meanwhile, bring marinade to a boil, simmer for 5 minutes and remove from heat. Add honey and reserve.

5. Place a slice of cheese on each plate, lay hot salmon over cheese and garnish with shoots and cilantro.

DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA (ALLYOUNEEDISCHEESE.CA/GRANDPRIX

Ingredients

Citrus marinade
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) orange juice
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) lime zest
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) lemon zest
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) fresh ginger, chopped
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) soy sauce
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 green onions, chopped
- Freshly ground pepper
- 8 salmon fillets, 5 oz (140 g) each
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey
- 6 oz (180 g) Le Noble cheese, cut into 8 slices
- 1 cup (250 ml) snow pea or sunflower shoots
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) fresh cilantro

Asian-Baked Salmon with Le Noble Cheese

This recipe serves eight. DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA

Mind the App

Cooking Matters

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

iPhone/iPad/Android
Free

Stretch your money and tighten your waistline with these health-conscious, calorie-counting recipes aimed at helping families through lean times.

Highlights include cornbread-crusted chicken, cranberry walnut coleslaw and orange oatmeal pancakes.

Brave the cold for Smoked Salmon with Compote

This blueberry compote drizzled over smoked salmon (another super nutritious superfood) is one easy and flavour-packed way to boost your nutrition this winter.

If you're brave enough to fire up the grill in the cold, try it!

1. For the compote, combine 1/4 cup of the blueberries, the brown sugar, and water in heavy small saucepan. Simmer over medium heat until the berries burst, stirring often, about 5 minutes. Fold in the remaining berries. Cook until the compote coats the back of a spoon, stirring often, about 8 minutes. Cover and keep warm.

2. For the smoked salmon, soak the cedar plank for at least 1 hour in warm water. Keep it soaked longer if time permits. In a shallow dish, stir together the oil, mustard, brown sugar, onions, and garlic. Place the salmon fillet in the marinade and turn to coat. Cover and marinate for at least 15 minutes, or up to 1 hour.

3. Preheat the grill to medium heat. Place the plank on the grate. The board is ready when it starts to smoke and crackle just a little. Place the salmon fillet onto the plank and discard the marinade. Cover, and grill for about 20 minutes. The fish is done when you can just begin to flake it with a fork. (It will continue to cook after you remove it from the grill.) Slice the salmon into 2-oz portions. Serve each one with 1 tablespoon warm compote.

NEWS CANADA/ UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY EXECUTIVE CHEF DON CORTES

Ingredients

Blueberry Compote
- 1/2 cup fresh Chilean blueberries (divided in two)
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tbsp water

Smoked Salmon
- 1 (12-inch) untreated cedar plank
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tbsp grainy mustard
- 1-1/2 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tbsp chopped green onions
- 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- 1 lb salmon fillet, skin remove

Blueberries are naturally fat-free, high in vitamin C, and rich in potassium and fiber. NEWS CANADA

Appetizer. Smoked Salmon Potato Bites

1. Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line baking sheet with foil.

2. Cut potatoes in half lengthwise. Trim tiny slice off bottom of each potato half to form a flat surface. In bowl, toss potatoes with oil, salt and pepper. Arrange on prepared baking sheet.

3. Bake in centre of oven for 50 to 55 minutes, turning once. Cool on baking sheet to room temperature, about 30 minutes. Meanwhile, use zester to create long strands of lemon rind; set aside.

4. Cut salmon into 60 equal pieces and roll into small coils. Dollop crème fraîche equally over the flattest side of potato pieces. Arrange a salmon piece on top of each. Top each with a radish slice, a piece of lemon rind and a piece of chive. Arrange on platter and serve.

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Ingredients
- 1 bag (680 g) PC Ruby Little Gems Red Mini Potatoes
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) freshly ground black pepper
- 1 lemon, scrubbed
- 1 pkg (150 g) PC Smoked Wild Sockeye Salmon
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) crème fraîche
- 5 or 6 radishes, thinly sliced
- 5 chives, cut in 1-inch (2.5 cm) lengths

Leafs centre Tyler Bozak scores the shootout winner on Red Wings goalie Jimmy Howard at the NHL Winter Classic on Wednesday in Ann Arbor, Mich. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Red Wings captain Henrik Zetterberg and Maple Leafs goalie Jonathan Bernier bundled up for Wednesday's big game along with 105,491 hockey fans. GREGORY SHAMUS, JAMIE SABAU/GETTY IMAGES

4 SPORTS

Bozak the boss of the Big House

Cool competition.
Leafs beat Red Wings in shootout at chilly, snowy Winter Classic

Winter Classic

3	2
Maple Leafs	Red Wings

Mike Babcock wasn't on the ice at Michigan Stadium, so seven minutes into the Winter Classic the Detroit Red Wings' coach asked star Pavel Datsyuk how he thought things were going.

"He said, 'Well, we're being too careful with the puck,'" Babcock said. "But he said, 'We got to be because you're scared to turn it over, there's so much snow."

Snow built up throughout the frigid game, which the Toronto Maple Leafs won 3-2 in a shootout to jump ahead of the Red Wings in the standings. The conditions didn't make for the prettiest game, but the spectacle of a capacity crowd of 105,491 in Ann Arbor set a picturesque scene.

"I don't know if you would call it a gem from a pace standpoint," Leafs coach Randy Carlyle said. "The weather definitely changed the way it was presented with the snow coming down, and it brought back a lot of memories from a childhood of playing outside."

Tyler Bozak scored the shootout winner in an event that set the NHL attendance record and might have been enough to make the Guinness Book of World Records. It was -11 C at puck drop. James van Riemsdyk and Bozak scored for Toronto and Daniel Alfredsson and Justin Abdelkader had markers for Detroit.

"The NHL did a good job keeping the ice as clean as possible," said Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf. "It's an experience. It's an outdoor game — in the middle of winter you're going to have snow." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Old-time atmosphere

"To me, today was a home run for hockey."
Red Wings coach Mike Babcock

John-Michael Liles plays soccer to warm up on Wednesday.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Trade. Buds swap blue-liners with Canes

Tim Gleason figures to be a better fit for Randy Carlyle's system than John-Michael Liles, so the Toronto Maple Leafs made the trade to upgrade their blue-line.

The Leafs got Gleason from the Carolina Hurricanes in exchange for Liles and prospect Dennis Robertson.

"With Gleason, we feel that he can come back into a hockey environment where we can support him with the style of play that I think suits his style," Carlyle said. "We want him to be a guy that can come back in and move the puck. He's a big man. We just want him to make a contribution."

The Leafs won't ask the 30-year-old Gleason, who has just one assist and no goals in 17 games this season, to contribute on the power play or on offence much, in general. He has two more seasons at a cap hit of $4 million US left on his deal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. Olympic team

'Full-circle' moment in Michigan

Before Phil Kessel and James van Riemsdyk were top-five NHL draft picks, they were kids heading off to the U.S. National Team Development program.

Kessel left Madison, Wis., in 2003, and van Riemsdyk left Middletown, N.J., to make the trip to Ann Arbor. It wasn't easy.

"You're in your comfort zone. You're coming out here and there's no promises as far as what can happen," van Riemsdyk said. "For me it was almost the start of my journey."

Kessel and van Riemsdyk excelled there and eventually developed into stars with the Maple Leafs. On Wednesday they were named to the U.S. team heading to the Sochi Olympics.

"Obviously it's an honour," Kessel said Tuesday. "Whenever you get a chance to represent your country it's a big deal."

That it happened at Michigan Stadium, down the street from where Kessel and van Riemsdyk grew into men on the ice, made it special.

"It's kind of crazy how it comes full circle," van Riemsdyk said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hockey. Injured Stamkos rehabbing toward first Olympic appearance

Steven Stamkos continued to skate towards his Olympic dream Wednesday, hoping that he can recover from a broken leg in time for the Sochi Games next month.

Stamkos skated in Vancouver after his Tampa Bay Lightning squad held a morning practice in preparation for a game against the Canucks.

After undergoing surgery, he is hoping to fast-track his return in time to represent Canada at the Games for the first time in his career. He aims to be ready to play with the Lightning before he goes to Russia.

"It's at the stage now where you make so much progress the first four or five weeks and now it's about maintaining that, getting stronger, working out in the gym, going on the ice and trying to make sure you feel better every day, and I am, so it's definitely positive," he told reporters.

Steven Stamkos is hoping to return in time for the Sochi Games. MIKE CARLSON/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Stamkos was leading the NHL in scoring when he was sidelined after crashing into a goalpost on Nov. 11 against Boston.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hockey. Luongo 'feeling good' after December injury, nearing return

Goaltender Roberto Luongo expects to return to the Vancouver Canucks lineup soon and should be back in game shape in time for the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Luongo took part in his first workout with the team Wednesday since suffering a "lower-body" injury Dec. 22 against Winnipeg.

"This is my first team practice, so I'm feeling good," said Luongo after a morning skate in advance of Vancouver's game against the Tampa Bay Lightning. "Everything's progressing really well right now."

Luongo indicated the problem is not overly serious, but he was still not healthy enough to play against Tampa Bay. Eddie Lack drew his third straight start, and fourth appearance since Luongo got hurt, while minor-league call-up Joacim Eriksson was given the backup assignment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lower-body injury

"It was an Evander Kane shot down the wing that originally got me a little bit.... I tried to stay in the game a few more minutes and then kept feeling it ..."

Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo, on the injury that has kept him off the ice.

Formula One star

Schumacher still in a coma after skiing accident

Formula One great Michael Schumacher's condition was stable but still critical overnight as he remained unconscious following a brain injury suffered in a skiing accident, his manager said Wednesday.

Sabine Kehm told reporters that Schumacher's condition has not changed since doctors said he showed small signs of improvement on Tuesday following his second operation.

Schumacher, who turns 45 on Friday, suffered critical head injuries when he fell and struck a rock while skiing Sunday morning during a family vacation at Meribel in the French Alps. His 14-year-old son Mick was with him and a group of friends when the accident happened in a small, rock-strewn area.

The seven-time F1 champion has since undergone two brain operations and remains in a medically induced coma. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dakota Odgers, left, of the Swift Current Broncos and Clayton Kirichenko of the Saskatoon Blades drop the gloves in the first period at Credit Union Centre in Saskatoon on Wednesday afternoon. SIMON HIATT/FOR METRO

Blades beat Broncos to earn 1st W of 2014

WHL. Saskatoon pulls away in the 3rd after teams go goal-for-goal

SIMON HIATT
saskatoon@metronews.ca

On Wednesday

Blades	Broncos
6	3

After a dismal end to the first half of the regular season that saw them go winless in December, the Saskatoon Blades resolved to be better in the New Year. They got off to a good start with a 6-3 win over the Swift Current Broncos Wednesday afternoon at Credit Union Centre.

Blades leading scorer Nikita Scherbak registered his fiftieth point of the season to open the scoring as he set up Ayrton Nikkel with a beautiful pass, leading to Nikkel's third goal of the campaign.

The Broncos tied it up in the second as Jay Merkley intercepted a clearing pass and scored his seventeenth of the season.

But the Blades had an answer eighteen seconds later as Nick Zajac made it 2-1 after returning to the lineup following an injury that saw him miss four games.

Late in the second, Graham Black tied it up for Swift Current with a power-play goal that trickled by Blades goalie Troy Trombley.

The Blades took their third lead of the game at the 8:25 mark on Scherbak's 7th power play goal on the season, beating Broncos goalie Landon Bow.

Once again the Broncos were able to draw even as Coda Gordon scored his 14th of the year, also coming on the power play.

But Scherbak again gave his team the lead 1:35 later with a goal that was followed by another from the Blades' Logan Harland. Dylan Busenius added an empty-netter with time winding down to make the final 6-3.

Coach not letting U.S. win go to juniors' heads

Team Canada head coach Brent Sutter at practice Wednesday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brent Sutter seemed to be in a nasty mood at practice the morning after Canada's biggest win so far at the world junior hockey championship.

The veteran coach was barking orders and slamming his stick at missed plays on Wednesday, as if his team had lost the night before instead of pulling out a 3-2 victory over the defending champion United States to take first place in its preliminary-round group.

But the shouting had a tactical side.

Rematch

Canada beat the Swiss 4-1 in an exhibition game Dec. 23

He didn't want his team feeling too good about themselves heading into the single-game knockout part of the tournament.

Canada plays its quarterfinal on Thursday against the Swiss, who finished fourth in the other group, but have shown they can pull off upsets against teams that take them lightly.

On paper, it's a game Canada should win handily, but that may be what Finland thought when they lost to the Swiss in a shootout in their final round robin game.

"They're a disciplined hockey team," said Sutter. "They've kept games close."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
With Mars, your ruling planet, moving through your opposite sign of Libra you will be very impatient over the next 24 hours, especially with people who think slowly. Compared to you, that's just about everyone.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Cosmic activity in the work and well being area of your chart warns you must be careful not to overdo it today. You may have a thousand and one things to do but you won't get them all done at once.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Don't let others' doubts stop you from pushing ahead with a plan you know has the potential to make you both happy and successful.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Try to give loved ones more freedom today and tomorrow. It's not enough just to say that you trust them — show it too. Besides, the more you try to control others, the more you encourage them to break away.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Your confidence may sink today but it's a passing phase, so don't worry about it. Most likely you are the only one who will notice anyway. A Leo who lacks confidence still looks and sounds like a winner.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The sooner you stop worrying about your money situation, the sooner it will sort itself out. The more you torment yourself about something the more power you give it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Mars in your sign makes you more aggressive than usual, so be careful when dealing with people one-to-one. You may not realize how intimidating you seem, but others notice. Treat everyone with respect.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
There is no point feeling sorry for yourself, not even if your number one plan seems to have hit a brick wall. If fate in its wisdom wants you to stop for a while or try a different course, just take it in your stride.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Others may say you are aiming too high but you know that you have to aim high to increase your chances of hitting a worthwhile target.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Mars is currently moving through the career area of your chart, which means that people who see you as a rival will do whatever they can to disrupt your climb to the top. They won't succeed, of course.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Take care not to say too much when talking to people you are not sure you can trust. You like to chat, it's part of your nature, but if you say too much you could undermine your position.

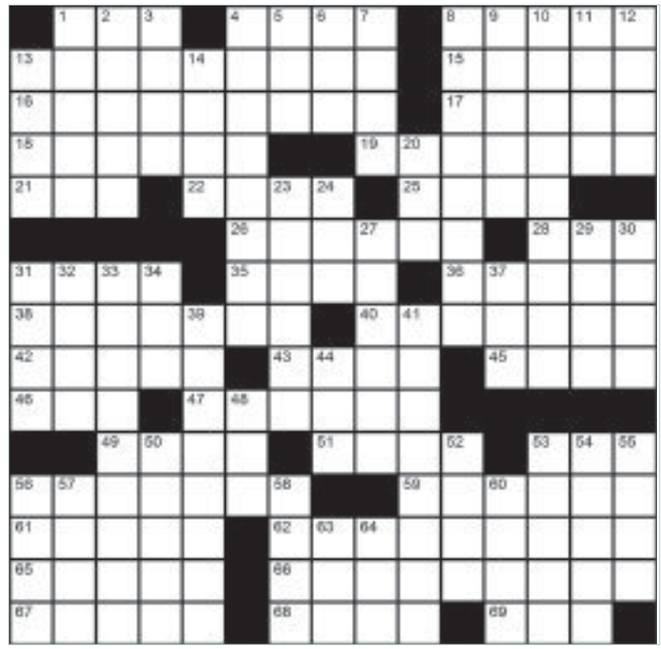
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You know may believe one thing but if your instincts tell you a different story, it is your instincts you must trust. There is such a thing as herd mentality and there's a lot of it.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

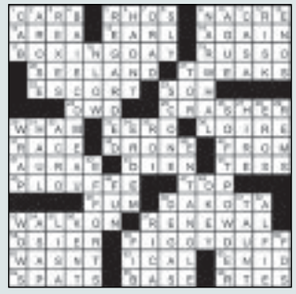
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Nero's 201
4. Parisian 'pea'
8. Type sizes
13. Canadian comic legend: 2 wds.
15. Judy Garland's daughter Ms. Luft
16. Theory of __
17. Eel, in sushi bars
18. Leave
19. Inhabitant
21. Magazine edition [abbr.]
22. Celeb's to-an-event ride
25. Ms. Gray of tunes
26. Sewing machine brand
28. Address book abbr.
31. Pro __ (In proportion)
35. __ __ off (What light switches could be at any given time)
36. County in Ireland
38. Component
40. The Band song that goes "Boards on the window / Mail by the door..."
42. Famous violin, commonly
43. Organic compound
45. Li'l instruments
46. Rocky hill
47. Legendary lady of Coventry
49. Actor/rapper, __-_
51. Door openers
53. Curve
56. T.O.'s world-renowned free-standing structure: 2 wds.
59. Sporty position
61. Q. "Is '__' _ 1991 Dustin Hoffman movie?" A. "Yes."
62. Hit by Montreal band Bran Van 3000 featuring the singing of Curtis Mayfield
65. Ms. Lavigne
66. Sports: Ottawa Senators founder, Bruce __
67. Actress Salma
68. Gulf leader [var. sp.]
69. 'Count' suffix

Down
1. Inlets
2. Dices
3. Bran Van 3000's "Drinking __ _._"
4. Jim __, Canadian tycoon whose holdings include the Guinness World Records books
5. Clandestine maritime org.
6. Oath-taker's words
7. Music's *N__
8. Ancient Greek biographer of Parallel Lives
9. Ancient column style
10. Chilliwack song: 2 wds.
11. Brad Pitt's leading lady, for short
12. 1940s baseball pitcher Johnny
13. Knight in George Lucas' world
14. Ringlet
20. "_ __ Mine" by The Beatles
23. Coined
24. Artist Yoko
27. Furrow
29. Lake __
30. Pasturelands
31. Relaxation
32. Choir voice
33. Nunavut, for one
34. Music honour, e.g.
37. Currency in Romania
39. Out-in-the-open-air attraction at #56-Across
41. Theatrical offering attendee
44. 'Neat' suffix
48. 'Capri' suffix
50. American journalist Ms. Roberts
52. __-chef
53. Canadian shoe stores
54. Nothings: French
55. Give up
56. Nuu-__-nulth (People of the Pacific Coast of Vancouver Island)
57. Explosive star
58. "Pearl Harbor" (2001) role, Capt. __ McCawley
60. Poker stake
63. Actor Alastair
64. Three

Tuesday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	2	5		1	7	3		
	3				9			8
			4	3				
		6				4	5	
			3		1			
	5	9				7		
				4	2			
1			9				2	
		4	1	7		9	6	

Dec 26's Sudoku

3	7	9	1	2	5	8	4	6
1	2	8	3	4	6	5	7	9
6	5	4	8	9	7	3	2	1
7	6	1	9	3	8	4	5	2
9	4	3	5	6	2	1	8	7
2	8	5	4	7	1	9	6	3
5	1	2	6	8	9	7	3	4
4	9	6	7	5	3	2	1	8
8	3	7	2	1	4	6	9	5

Today -10°/-22° Flurries
Friday -10°/-29° Flurries 40%
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Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

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